

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /132 W

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R 091812Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 569

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 152

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT UK (NI)

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 5 TALKS ON FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE: FAULKNER  
UNDER ATTACK

SUMMARY: INTERPARTY TALKS TO DISCUSS FORMATION OF EXECUTIVE  
OCTOBER 5 APPARENTLY WENT WELL. PARTICIPANTS WERE ALL SMILES AT  
END OF DAY BUT AS HAD BEEN AGREED SAID NOTHING. SUBCOMMITTEE  
TO DEVELOP ECONOMIC SOCIAL PROGRAM WAS SET UP MET OCTOBER 8  
WILL LAY REPORT BEFORE OCTOBER 9 SESSION OF INTERPARTY GROUP.  
ON SIDELINES EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE ON PROUNION SIDE TO UNSEAT  
FAULKNER AS PARTY LEADER. BUT IN ABSENCE OF VIABLE ALTERNATIVE  
AT THE MINUTE HE SEEMS STILL TO BE IN CONTROL AND LIKELY TO  
SURVIVE EFFORT TO DISLODGE HIM TO BE MADE AT PARTY STANDING  
COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 23. END SUMMARY

1. INTERPARTY TALKS OCTOBER 5 CLOSED WITH AGREEMENT NOT TO  
DISCUSS CONTENT OF TALKS BEFORE NEXT SCHEDULED SESSION OCTOBER 9.  
SUCCESS OF THIS REMARKABLE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN ALMOST TOTAL.  
FIRST SESSION DID SET UP A 5-MAN SUBCOMMITTEE (2 UNIONISTS,  
2 SDLP, 1 ALLIANCE) TO WORK OUT PROGRAM ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC  
ISSUES. IT MET OCTOBER 8 AND WAS SCHEDULED TO LAY ITS REPORT  
BEFORE OCTOBER 9 MEETING. IN MEANTIME WHITELAW IS SCHEDULING  
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SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH PARTY CHIEFS TO GET THEIR PARTY'S

VIEWS ON CONTENTIOUS ISSUES SUCH AS INTERNMENT, POLICE AND COUNCIL OF IRELAND. FAULKNER NOT REQUIRED TO FORCE ISSUE OF SDLPs ACCEPTING CONST ACT AS PRECONDITION TO UNIONISTS TALKING: WHITELAW'S OPENING STATEMENT INSISTED REPEATEDLY THAT CONST ACT ONLY BASIS FOR PROCEEDING.

2. OVER WEEKEND, UNPLEDGED UNIONISTS UNDER LEADERSHIP OF FORMER STORMONT MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HARRY WEST HAVE OPENLY CHALLENGED FAULKNER'S RIGHT TO LEAD UNIONIST PARTY. THEY MAKE TWO POINTS: FIRST FAULKNER RAN FOR ASSEMBLY ON PLATFORM PLEDGING NOT TO SHARE POWER WITH ANTI-PARTITIONISTS, I.E. ANY PARTY NOT COMMITTED TO PRESERVATION OF STATE BUT NOW IS WILLING TO WORK ON EXECUTIVE WITH SDLP WHOSE PLATFORM AIMS AT UNITED IRELAND. SECOND, UNPLEDGED UNIONISTS POINT OUT THAT IN ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS 258,000 VOTES WERE CAST FOR CANDIDATES OPPOSED TO PRINCIPLES OF WHITE PAPER WHEREAS ONLY 138,000 VOTES FOR CANDIDATES IN FAVOR OF WHITE PAPER. THEY WILL MAKE THEIR BID TO UNHORSE FAULKNER AT OCTOBER 23 MEETING OF PARTY'S STANDING COMMITTEE.

3. CRAIG TOO HAS COME OUT FOR DISMISSAL OF FAULKNER AS UNIONIST PARTY LEADER. "LATTER IS ONLY MAN STANDING IN WAY OF ULSTER VICTORY AND HE MUST BE DISMISSED AS LEADER OF UNIONIST PARTY" ACCORDING TO CRAIG "IF REPUBLICAN CONSPIRACY IS TO BE DEFEATED." CRAIG ADDED THAT "IN LAST RESORT" REAL OPPOSITION MIGHT WELL HAVE TO COME FROM PEOPLE IN COUNTRY RATHER THAN ANTI-WHITE PAPER GROUPS IN ASSEMBLY.

4. COMMENT SPLITS IN UNIONIST CONTINUES TO PLAY MOST IMPORTANT PART IN EFFORTS TO GET ASSEMBLY/EXECUTIVE SYSTEM GOING. THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS ABOUT FALLOUT BETWEEN PAISLEY AND CRAIG. FOR PRESENT HOWEVER FAULKNER APPEARS TO BE IN SADDLE. A LARGE BODY OF UNIONISTS DO WANT TALKS TO SUCCEED SO THAT RETURN HR NORMAL (?) GOVERNMENT CAN BE EFFECTED. TO GET THAT PRO-UNION UNIONISTS MUST BE PARTICIPATING AND NO UNIONIST OTHER THAN FAULKNER APPEARS TO HAVE THE KIND OF PARTY STRENGTH REQUIRED. CERTAINLY NOT BRADFORD AT THE MINUTE ALTHOUGH HIS HOUR HAS NOT YET COME AND GONE. EVEN SDLP CONCEDE THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE NOW TO FAULKNER.

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